

## Butterfly Life Cycle Model

Created by Laurie Witt, STEM Teacher, at Albert Harris Elementary.

### Materials Needed:

Chenille stem

Coffee filters

Rose Art Magic Markers

Newspaper/Bulletin Board paper

Toilet paper tube

Plastic Easter egg

Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Paper towels or wipes

### Tools Needed:

Scissors

Water Spray Bottle

Read Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to your students. Discuss the book's illustrations as students' butterflies will resemble these.

The plastic Easter egg will be the butterfly egg for your model.

Have students cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the chenille stem to be their caterpillar. Try to match the chenille stems to the plastic Easter eggs students are using. This is a good opportunity to review fractions. Have students bend the

small section of chenille stems to resemble a caterpillar. This will go inside of the egg.

The toilet paper tube is going to serve as the chrysalis for the caterpillars.

Have students color their coffee filters using the Rose Art magic markers. This is a terrific time to review symmetry with your students. Encourage students to use lots of color so their butterflies will be colorful like the ones in the book.

After students have finished coloring their coffee filters, you or your students will carefully spritz them with water. If you take your time and slowly move the coffee filter so colors 'bleed' in the direction you want them to, you can achieve some amazing results. Set the coffee filters on newspaper/bulletin board paper to dry. Clean the area with paper towels or wipes. Rose Art markers will bleed better than Crayola.

When students' coffee filters are dry, have students accordion fold them. They will use the  $\frac{3}{4}$  section of their chenille stems to complete their butterflies.

Now students are ready to learn how to use their models.

To start, make sure the tiny caterpillar is located inside of the plastic Easter egg. Also have students carefully fold the finished butterfly up so that it will fit inside of the toilet paper tube chrysalis. Leave the butterfly inside of the chrysalis for now. Students are ready to proceed.

First the caterpillar comes out of the butterfly egg. The caterpillar eats and eats until it makes its chrysalis. (Students put the tiny caterpillar inside of the toilet paper tube chrysalis.) After time, the butterfly slowly emerges from the chrysalis.

Students can also research and create food (plants and flowers) that their caterpillars would eat. The toilet paper tube conveniently holds the egg with the tiny caterpillar inside and the finished butterfly.